BRITISH COLUMBIA
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Stats

Infoline

Contact: bcstats.infoline@gov.bc.ca Issue: 08-21 May 23rd, 2008

- **Despite rising energy costs overall inflation rate remains relatively low, at 1.7% at April**
- **Retail sales rise for first time since December; wholesalers don't do as well**
- **Traveller entries down again in March**

Prices

- **British Columbia's year-over-year inflation rate climbed to 1.7% in April, up from 1.2% in March.** The increase in the cost of energy products (+6.6%) was higher than in the previous month (+5.2%) putting further inflationary pressure on the economy. Excluding energy, the overall increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) would have been 1.3%.

  Transportation costs were up slightly (+0.8%), with prices for public (+3.9%) transportation increasing substantially more than the cost of private transport (+0.5%). Although gasoline prices rose in April (+7.9%), the rate of increase was lower than in March (+9.4%). Consumers paid more for fuel oil (+30.0%), electricity (+8.2%) and water (+7.7%). They paid less for natural gas (-2.3%), but this didn't go far in helping to moderate inflation in the cost of shelter (+3.5%), which was up nearly a full percentage point from March (+2.6%). Food prices were 0.7% higher than in April of last year, due in part to increasing the bite of restaurant meals (+2.7%). On the other hand, the cost of food purchased from stores eased (-0.4%), pulled down by falling prices for meat (-2.6%), and fresh fruits (-9.1%) and veggies (-11.1%).

  Vancouver's inflation rate (+1.9%) was a touch higher than the BC average in April, while Victoria's (+1.4%) was lower. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **BC had the lowest inflation rate in western Canada last month, while Alberta and Saskatchewan (each +3.2%) continued to face the highest overall price increases in the country.** Newfoundland (+2.3%), PEI (+2.6%) and Nova Scotia (+2.7%) were the other provinces where prices rose more than the national average (+1.7%) in April. Inflation rates were lowest in Ontario (+1.3%) and New Brunswick (+1.4%). Rising gasoline prices (+11.6%) were the main source of upward pressure on the national all-items index. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

The Economy

- **Retail sales in the province advanced 2.0% (seasonally *adjusted*) in March, marking the first monthly gain since December of last year.** The increase reflected strength in the automotive and food sectors. Automotive retailers saw the most significant gain, driven by sales at new car dealerships. Retailers of building & outdoor home supplies posted a modest increase, while general merchandisers, furniture and clothing retailers made only marginal gains.

  Sales were flat for Canadian retailers (+0.1%) as increased sales by automotive dealers (+0.4%) were offset by a 2.6% drop in sales at clothing & accessories stores. Along with BC, Saskatchewan (+2.1%) and Manitoba (+2.3%) were the only provinces to record an increase of at least two percent. Sales in Quebec plummeted 3.1%. *Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats*

- **Wholesale sales in the province slipped 2.6% (*seasonally adjusted*) in March.** Wholesalers of machinery & equipment, motor vehicles, building supplies, food and pharmaceuticals were among those posting decreases. Nationally, wholesale sales were up 0.6%, fuelled in part by a notable climb in Saskatchewan (+11.6%). *Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats*

Tourism

- **Traveller entries to Canada via BC fell (-2.4%,**

Report

Intra-Provincial Migration of the Aboriginal Identity Population

Did you know...
When frustrated by standing in a long line, 15% of British Columbians will drop their items on the closest shelf and leave the store. *Source: Ipsos Canada*

***seasonally adjusted*) for the second consecutive month in March.** Visitation from the US (-1.5%) continued on a downward track as there were fewer Americans on same-day (-2.6%) and overnight (-1.0%) trips. The number of visitors from overseas countries slumped (-5.2%), reflecting a significant decrease in Asian entries (-6.0%). Travel from Oceania (-8.5%) was also down while more Europeans (+1.9%) entered the province.

The number of Canadians returning home through BC advanced (+5.0%) for the third straight month. There were approximately 810,000 travellers returning from the US, a 5.7% increase compared to the previous month. However, overseas travel (+0.4%) was relatively flat in March. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

Crime

- **A total of 4,065 criminal cases appeared before youth courts in BC in 2006/07.** Nearly two-thirds (61%) of these cases resulted in convictions. The most frequently assigned sentence was probation (44% of convictions), while a further 19% of convictions resulted in community service, and 19% resulted in a custody sentence. (*Note that sentences are not mutually exclusive. For example, offenders sentenced to custody are often also subject to probation upon their release.*)

  Since the introduction of the Youth Criminal Justice Act (YCJA) in 2003, every province and territory has experienced drops in youth court caseloads. British Columbia saw a 37% reduction in its caseload between 2002/03 and 2006/07. There were four other jurisdictions where the caseload in 2006/07 was at least 30% lower than in 2002/03–Northwest Territories (-52%), Newfoundland and Labrador (-47%), Yukon (-45%) and Ontario (-30%). The court rate for Canada as a whole declined 26% over this period. Theft, common assault and break & enter remain the most common offences among young people in Canada.

  Data Source: SC, Cat.# 85-002-XIE.

- **Impaired driving (11%) and common assault (11%) are the most frequent offences disposed in adult criminal court in Canada.** Theft (10%) and failure to comply with an order (7%) are also common offences. About 4% of offences disposed in criminal court are related to drug trafficking. Of the cases tried in BC in 2006/07, 71% resulted in a guilty verdict. Individuals brought before the courts are most likely to be found guilty in New Brunswick (80%) and Newfoundland & Labrador (77%). They're least likely to receive a guilty verdict in Ontario (59%) and Manitoba (62%).

  Data Source: SC, Cat.# 85-002-XIE.

Abortion

- **A total of 14, 444 abortions were performed on BC women during 2005, up 2.1% from 14,145 in 2004.** One in four pregnancies were terminated (there were 35.4 abortions for every 100 live births in the province, up from 34.9 in 2004). Girls under the age of 15 remain the most likely to have abortions (369.2 per 100 live births), as were those aged 15 to 19 (202.2). Among young women aged 20 to 24, the rate was 72.2. Women aged 30 to 34 were the least likely (15.9) to have an abortion, whereas the rate creeps up again among women over 40 (42.1). Proportionally, the most abortions were performed on women between the ages of 20 and 24 (31% of all abortions in 2005).

  British Columbia has the second-highest abortion rate among the provinces. There were 15.9 abortions per 1,000 women in BC in 2005, second only to Quebec (18.8 per 1,000 women). Nationally, there were 14.1 abortions per 1,000 women. The Maritime Provinces all had abortion rates well below the national average, especially PEI (4.4) and New Brunswick (6.1). Combined, women in Nunavut, Northwest Territories and the Yukon had the highest rate of abortions (24.9 abortions per 1,000 women).

  Data Source: SC, Catalogue 82-223-XWE

The Nation

- **Corporations in Canada earned operating profits in excess of $67 billion (*seasonally adjusted*) in the first quarter of 2007, down 1.1% over the previous quarter.** Profit margins for non-financial industries were on the rise (+0.5% to $48.7 billion), but profits of financial industries plunged 5.0% to $19.1 billion.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

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For data originating from Statistics Canada, data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database; otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the catalogue number.

Infoline Report

Contact: Jacob Dwhytie
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Originally published in
Migration Highlights Issue 07-4

Intra-Provincial Migration of the Aboriginal Identity Population

Compared to our knowledge of the B.C. population as a whole, our understanding of the migration patterns specific to Aboriginal individuals is minimal. In what follows, we will briefly examine mobility data from the 2001 Canadian Census and garner what insights we can about who is moving in B.C.'s Aboriginal communities, and to where are they moving.

It must first be noted that it is difficult to obtain reliable demographic data on the Aboriginal communities in British Columbia. Few data sources identify members of Aboriginal communities, and those that do may suffer quality issues that make them impractical for studying migration patterns. Additionally, Aboriginal communities are diverse and defy simple categorization. Nonetheless, analysis of the data that does exist can provide important insights into this complex group and lead to more reliable information to aid in community benchmarking and policy evaluation.

The Canadian Census provides some of the best data on Aboriginal peoples as far as consistency and comprehensiveness is concerned. Since the 1996 census, individuals have been asked whether they identify with North American Indians, Métis, Inuit, or some mixture thereof. And as the census occurs at regular intervals and includes questions on mobility and migration, it is an ample source of data on the intra-provincial migration of Aboriginal peoples.

Composition of B.C.'s Aboriginal Peoples

In the 2001 Census, 170,000 British Columbians declared an Aboriginal Identity, constituting 4.4% of the provincial population. As of the 2001 Census nearly 70% of B.C.'s Aboriginal Identity population is North American Indian, and over 25% is Métis. Inuit and individuals who identify with multiple groups account for less than 5% of B.C.'s Aboriginal Identity population. It is not surprising that Inuit are such a small minority of the population, as the traditional Inuit regions lie north and east of B.C.'s borders.

Examining the Aboriginal Identity population regionally by B.C.'s five health authorities, the largest number of Aboriginal Identity persons, or more than one quarter of the provincial population, make their home in the Northern Health Authority. The Vancouver Coastal Health Authority had the smallest number Aboriginal Identity individuals, constituting fewer than 14% of B.C.'s Aboriginal Identity population. Among North American Indians, the most

Table 1: Aboriginal Identity Population by Health Authority

	Total Aboriginal Identity Population	North American Indian	Métis	Inuit	Other
British Columbia	170,025	118,295	44,270	805	6,660
Interior	36,775	24,330	11,200	285	955
Fraser	32,945	19,835	11,475	215	1,420
Van Coastal	22,800	17,505	4,160	75	1,050
Van Island	33,335	24,210	7,520	160	1,440
Northern	44,165	32,405	9,905	70	1,790

Table 2: Aboriginal Identity Migration by Health Authority of Destination

	Total Aboriginal Identity Population	North American Indian	Métis	Inuit	Other
British Columbia	12,435	8,780	3,125	60	470
Interior	3,010	2,010	845	40	110
Fraser	2,740	1,725	930	20	60
Van Coastal	1,190	970	190	0	30
Van Island	2,715	1,995	590	0	130
Northern	2,780	2,070	565	0	135

Table 3: Total Aboriginal Identity Population, Migration Origin and Destination

		Origin				
		Interior	Fraser	Van Coastal	Van Island	Northern
Destination	Interior	1840	285	300	195	390
	Fraser	205	1580	425	325	200
	Van Coastal	155	320	325	225	160
	Van Island	155	260	290	1850	165
	Northern	245	165	165	145	2050

populous regions are the Northern, Interior, and Vancouver Island Health Authorities, while more than half of B.C.'s Métis live in the Fraser and Interior Health Authorities.

Intra-Provincial Migration

The Census provides us with data on mobility in the 12 months prior to May 2001. Therefore, only individuals 1 year of age and older are included in the migration data. Within the Aboriginal Identity population older than 1 year old, nearly 12,500 individuals migrated to a different Census Subdivision within the province in the twelve months prior to the Census[1]. In all of the Aboriginal Identity groups, intra-provincial migrants constituted between 7% and 8% of the total 2001 population.

Examination of these intra-provincial migrants by region indicates that many migrants relocated within a health authority. Only about 4,800 Aboriginal Identity individuals migrated across health authority boundaries. The Vancouver Costal Health Authority was the least likely destination for all groups. However, the distribution of migrants is not identical for all Aboriginal Identity groups: North American Indian migrants spread out rather evenly among the Interior, Fraser, Vancouver Island, and Northern Health Authorities; more than half of the Métis migrants were destined for the Fraser and Interior Health Authorities; and the only recorded Inuit migrants were a small number destined for the Interior and Fraser Health Authorities.

To gain more insight into the flow of intra-provincial migrants in B.C., Table 3 provides the region of origin and destination for B.C.'s combined Aboriginal Identity population. One interesting feature is that among the intra-provincial migrants, about 60% move within their health authority. Indeed, all regions except the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority exhibit migration levels within Health Authorities at a much higher level than between health authorities. This is also true among both the North American Indians and the Métis.

[1] A Census Subdivision is a small geographic area, often representative of a municipality or Indian Reserve.

Table 4: North American Indian, Migration Origin and Destination

		Origin				
		Interior	Fraser	Van Coastal	Van Island	Northern
Destination	Interior	1240	170	220	115	265
	Fraser	155	970	270	235	100
	Van Coastal	125	225	270	185	155
	Van Island	80	140	195	1460	115
	Northern	165	145	150	115	1495

Table 5: Métis, Migration Origin and Destination

		Origin				
		Interior	Fraser	Van Coastal	Van Island	Northern
Destination	Interior	475	115	65	65	125
	Fraser	45	560	140	85	100
	Van Coastal	30	80	40	25	10
	Van Island	65	90	90	300	45
	Northern	80	10	15	30	435

In Table 6, the dispersion of the remaining 40% of intra-provincial Aboriginal Identity migrants who did cross health authority borders can be seen. As total intra-provincial migration must sum to zero, the Interior and Fraser Health Authorities both experienced positive net migration, which was offset by the negative net migration in the other three regions.

The North American Indian migration pattern shown in Table 7 displays a larger net out-migration from the Vancouver Island Health Authority, as well as a smaller net out-migration from the Northern Health Authority.

On the other hand, the Métis migration distribution shows positive net migration in an additional third region, the Vancouver Island Health Authority. Compared with the North American Indians, the Métis also show greater net out-migration in the Northern Health Authority, as well as greater relative net in-migration in the Interior and Fraser Health Authorities.

Table 6:
Migration Between Health Authorities,
Total Aboriginal Identity

	Migration		
	IN	OUT	NET
Interior	1170	760	410
Fraser	1155	1030	125
Van Coastal	860	1180	-320
Van Island	870	890	-20
Northern	720	915	-195

Table 7:
Migration Between Health Authorities,
North American Indian

	Migration		
	IN	OUT	NET
Interior	770	525	245
Fraser	760	680	80
Van Coastal	690	835	-145
Van Island	530	650	-120
Northern	575	635	-60

Table 8:
Migration Between Health Authorities,
Métis

	Migration		
	IN	OUT	NET
Interior	370	220	150
Fraser	370	295	75
Van Coastal	145	310	-165
Van Island	290	205	85
Northern	135	280	-145

Age Distribution of Migrants

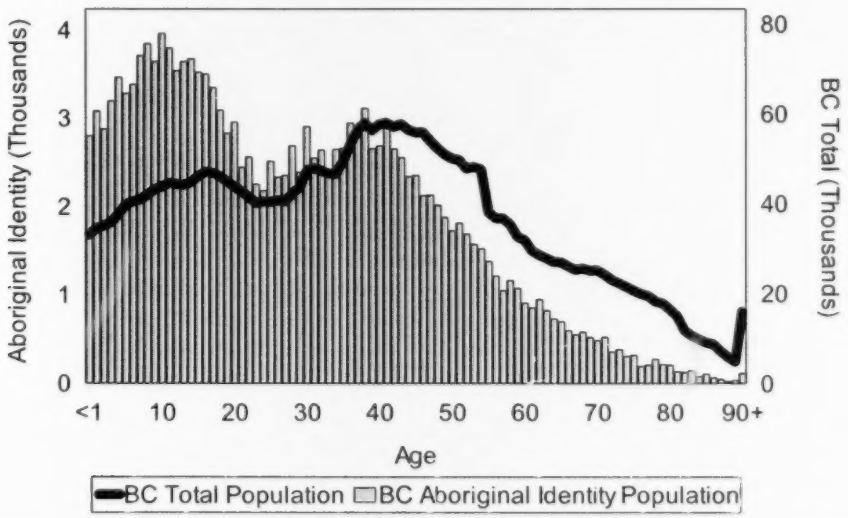
One important characteristic about the Aboriginal Identity population in B.C. is that it is younger than B.C. as a whole. Figure 1 compares the age distribution of the total Aboriginal population with that of B.C.'s combined Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal population. This shows that the Aboriginal Identity population contains a higher proportion of young people and a lower proportion of elderly than B.C. at-large. The age distribution of Aboriginal Identity individuals includes a higher number of people under 20 years old, as well as a lower number of people over 45 years old.

Table 9 displays the mean and median ages for migrants as well as for the total Aboriginal Identity population in each health region. In general, migrants are slightly younger than the total population. The mean age of the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority is by far the highest, at 31 years old. Also interesting is that with one exception, all migrants have mean and median ages at least as low as that of the regional population. The exception is with the in-migrants to the Northern Health Authority.

Table 9: Average Age of Migrants by Region

		Average Age		
		In-Migrants	Out-Migrants	Total Population
Interior	Mean	25.8	27.2	28.9
	Median	23	25	27
Fraser	Mean	26.1	24.5	27.3
	Median	24	24	25
Vancouver Coastal	Mean	27.3	28.1	30.9
	Median	26	26	31
Vancouver Island	Mean	24.3	25.9	27.8
	Median	24	25	25
Northern	Mean	29.0	26.2	27.6
	Median	28	24	25

Figure 1: B.C. Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Population



Age Distribution of Migrants

Figures 2 through 6 display the age distribution of the total Aboriginal Identity population and their migration patterns in each of the five health authorities. It is clear from these graphs that migration is an activity of the young. For all regions, intra-provincial migration among individuals over 65 years old is negligible.

Each region exhibits a similar bimodality as is observed in the total B.C. Aboriginal Identity population in Figure 1. One mode is located near 10 years of age and the other mode is near 40 years of age. Interestingly, the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority is the only region where the second mode reaches higher than the first, indicative of the regions higher average age.

Despite only two of the five health regions experiencing positive net migration over the period, all of the in- and out-migrant age distributions appear to track closely. So either coming or going, the age profile of the migrants is similar.

Figure 4: Van Coastal Health Authority, Aboriginal Identity Age Distribution

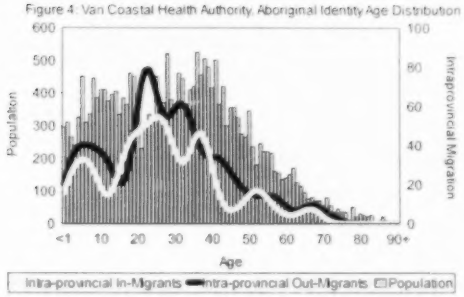


Figure 5: Van Island Health Authority, Aboriginal Identity Age Distribution

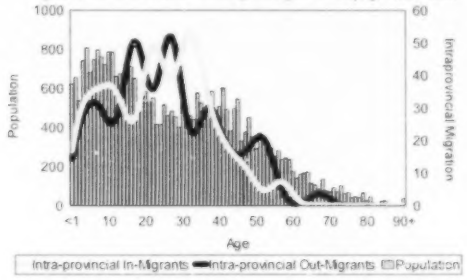


Figure 6: Northern Health Authority, Aboriginal Identity Age Distribution

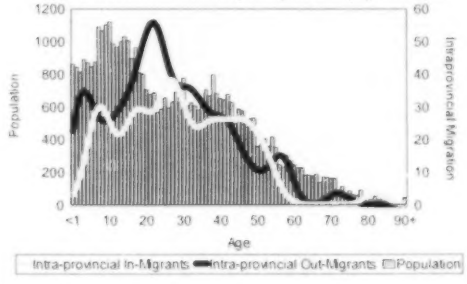


Figure 3: Fraser Health Authority, Aboriginal Identity Age Distribution

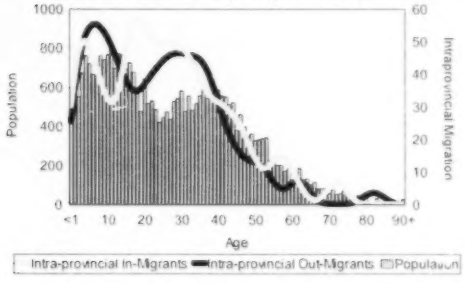
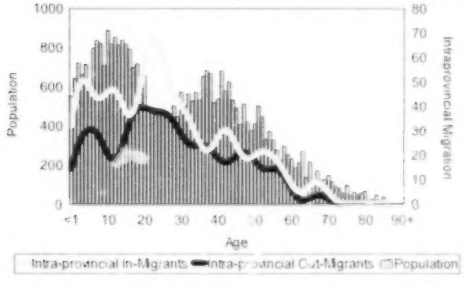


Figure 2: Interior Health Authority, Aboriginal Identity Age Distribution



Age Distribution of Migrants

Figures 7 through 11 again display the migration patterns of the total Aboriginal Identity population in each region. Most migrants appear to be aged 20-40. This is evidenced by the "bulges" that occur at these ages in the graphs. In some regions, the 1-10 year olds also appear to have large migration flows. This is not surprising as many of the 20-40 year old migrants can be expected to have families with children moving with them.

It also does not appear that the flow of migrants between regions has a large effect on the underlying age structure in the short run. Most of the migration inflows and outflows are offsetting, leaving only relatively small changes in the age structure from net migration.

Conclusion

It is clear that the composition of British Columbia's Aboriginal population has some important characteristic differences from the total provincial population. Yet without more data, extrapolating larger, long-term trends will prove challenging. Indeed, we still do not have a very good idea of how these regional trends evolve over time, or how the motivation to migrate for Aboriginal British Columbians compares to the motivation of other British Columbian migrants. As new data, such as the 2006 Canadian Census, become available we will be able to refine our understanding and prepare to answer these and other questions.

Figure 7: Interior Health Authority, Aboriginal Identity Age Distribution

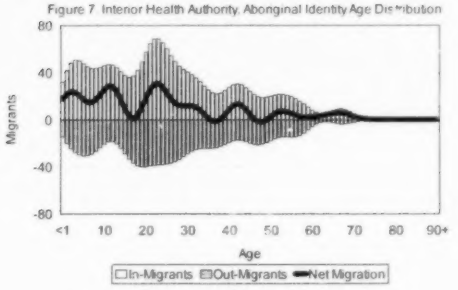


Figure 8: Fraser Health Authority, Aboriginal Identity Age Distribution

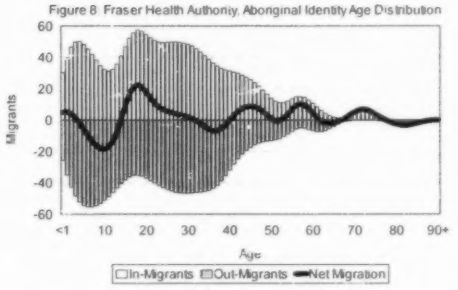


Figure 9: Van Coastal Health Authority, Aboriginal Identity Age Distribution

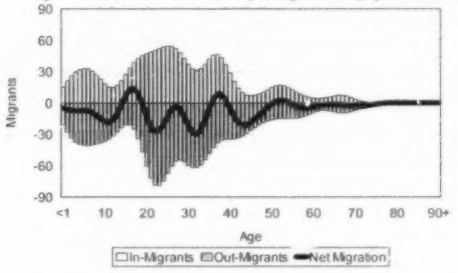


Figure 10: Van Island Health Authority, Aboriginal Identity Age Distribution

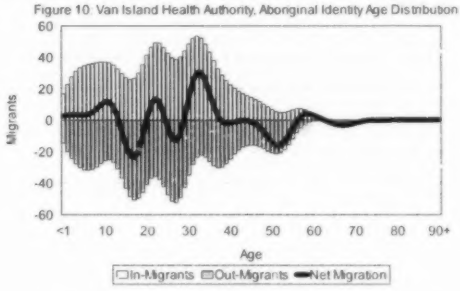
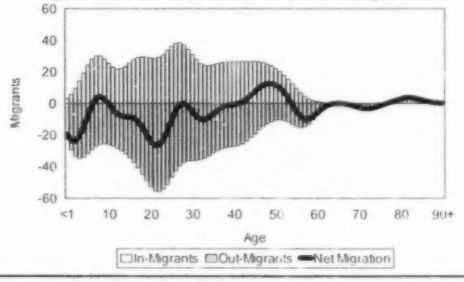


Figure 11: Northern Health Authority, Aboriginal Identity Age Distribution



Infoline

May 23, 2008
Issue 08-21

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BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Jan 1/08	% change on one year ago
BC	4,414.0	1.5
Canada	33,143.6	1.1
GDP and INCOME (Revised Apr 28)		
(BC - at market prices)	2007	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	190,214	5.5
GDP *($ 2002 millions)*	163,200	3.1
GDP *($ 2002 per Capita)*	37,258	1.7
Personal Disposable Income *($ 2002 per Capita)*	24,728	3.0
TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Mar	3,359	0.0
Merchandise Exports - Mar	2,311	-8.8
Retail Sales - Mar	4,848	2.0
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	% change on one year ago	12-month avg % change
(all items - Apr 2008)		
BC	1.7	1.4
Vancouver	1.9	1.7
Victoria	1.4	0.8
Canada	1.7	2.1
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change on
(seasonally adjusted)	Apr '08	prev. month
Labour Force - BC	2,429	0.3
Employed - BC	2,324	0.3
Unemployed - BC	105	0.7
		Mar '08
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	4.3	4.3
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	6.1	6.0
INTEREST RATES (percent)	May 21/08	May 23/07
Prime Business Rate	4.75	6.00
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	6.95	6.75
- 5 year	6.99	6.84
US-CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	May 21/08	May 23/07
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $ per US $	0.9844	1.0818
(closing rate) US $ per Cdn $	1.0162	0.9241
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		% change on
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Apr '08	one year ago
BC	772.40	3.3
Canada	773.54	4.4

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

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- Quarterly Regional Statistics, 1st Quarter 2008
- Consumer Price Index, April 2008

Next week

- Business Indicators, May 2008
- Current Statistics, May 2008

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